

So what I'm suggesting is a mechanism that would number (1) give some things to Nebraska that I think that was intention of the proponents of LB 533 and 245 and 357 and all the other bills that we've had and those things are such things as number (1) to take care of Nebraska's students that may want to enter into veterinary medicine, to make available to them an opportunity to at least have a certain number accepted. And what I'm suggesting is yes, I think that's probably a valid point. I think we can do that. And the amendment that I'm offering to you would do that. It would, by the way, offer as many students as we'll have with our own school. The other thing is that we've been told that we need to provide clinical and diagnostic facilities for the industry and for the practicing veterinarians in this State. And I don't disagree with that, either, you know, that's my business, too. I think that probably is a good idea. But the way to do it is to upgrade the clinical and diagnostic facilities that we've got right now and I think this would do that. If we do that, if we have the clinical and diagnostic facilities, then the research that many people are continually talking about will naturally follow. And of course, if we have those facilities, we can provide the instate training for the practicing veterinarians in this State. Now some of the things that it won't do, some of the things that this amendment won't do that the current mechanism will do. Number (1), it won't build buildings on the campus at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. It won't build a lot of brick and mortar. It won't provide additional students which would help out the economy, I suppose, here in Lincoln, Nebraska. Maybe the Chamber of Commerce would not necessarily like this because that seems to be one of their big things. It doesn't need approval from the federal government or a couple of other states. We don't need the approval from one other state other than us. And I think we could do that pretty easily. So the bottom line is that I think we could start sooner. We wouldn't have to wait til some magical date when somebody else comes in which is, as far as I'm concerned, the most important part of the whole thing. We need to get going; we need to get some things done. You know, let me outline for you a little bit about what, what I'm talking about. The school of veterinary medicine is a four-year program, four years past the required pre-med program and that generally, I think, is requirement now of at least three years. Most of them have three to four years, some even have doctors in something else before they get into the program but it's a four-year program once you're in the school of veterinary medicine. But those first three years of the program are basically class-work. They're taking such courses as histology and those types of things. Now the only time they're exposed to animals, the only time they're really exposed to animals during that first three years is when they're dissecting animals. Now if